

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIC SPEECE
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL
OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete, coach, and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Eric Speece. Eric will be inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 for his distinct athletic achievements in the sport of football. He and his fellow inductees will be honored at a reception on August 8, 2021.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Eric first stepped on the football field as a member of the West Pittston Rams mini football team. He helped lead the team to two championships, one in 1976 and one in 1978. He played Little League Baseball for Halls Nursery/Millers Economy; his team won the championship in 1979. He also wrestled in junior high.

Eric attended Wyoming Area High School, where he was a key player on the football team. While in high school, he gained over 1700 rushing yards and scored 26 touchdowns. In 1982, he lettered in football and received an honorable mention All-Scholastic. In 1983, he lettered and was named to the first team All-Scholastic as a running back. That year, he rushed for 1100 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. He was a leading scorer in the Wyoming Valley Conference with 20 touchdowns, a safety, and a two-point conversion. For his efforts, the Citizens' Voice named him Offensive Player of the Year, and he was named All-Conference VFW Player of the Year and WVC Second Leading Rusher. He played on the UNICO West Team, and in 2009, he was inducted into the Wyoming Area Ring of Pride. In addition to football, Eric played basketball and ran track.

Eric continued his football and academic careers at Lock Haven University. His freshman year he was the team's leading rusher and started seven games. He lettered in 1984–1985 and had 122 carries for 585 yards, five touchdowns, and one receiving touchdown. He then transferred to Bloomsburg University where he lettered in football in 1987 and 1989. While at Bloomsburg, he had 405 rushing yards with one touchdown and 90 yards receiving with one touchdown.

After graduating from college, Eric continued to pursue his passion for football. He played adult flag football from 1990 to 2006 in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. In 2000, he joined the coaching staff of his alma mater, Wyoming Area. He also returned to West Pittston Rams mini football as coach from 1990 to 2006; his teams made the playoffs nine out of his ten seasons with the team. In 2000, they were the Super Bowl runners-up.

It is an honor to recognize Eric on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I was absent due to a delay coming to the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 238.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, for vote on final passage of H.R. 4346, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 239.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MARVIN WALKER AS COMMANDER OF THE ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the retirement of Colonel Marvin Walker today as Commander of the Anniston Army Depot.

Colonel Walker earned his undergraduate degree from Dillard University and his graduate degrees from the U.S. War College and Webster University. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Joint Combined Warfighting School, and the United States Air War College.

In 1996, Colonel Walker received his commission in the Ordnance Corps. During his illustrious career, Colonel Walker held leadership posts around the world in defense of our Nation to include command at the company and battalion level. Colonel Walker repeatedly served our Nation in combat, deploying to Kuwait once, Iraq twice, and commanding the 3–401st Army Field Support Battalion in Afghanistan.

He has received numerous awards and decorations in service to our Nation—including the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters—but no amount of awards could capture the valor, bravery, and commitment he has provided to our Nation, nor the incalculable debt we owe back to him.

Colonel Walker has served honorably as the 36th commander of the Anniston Army Depot since July 2019, where he has overseen an annual \$850M operating revenue in support of Warfighter readiness and has led a workforce of 3,000 personnel. He has earned the respect and admiration of all those serving at the Depot and led with great fidelity to our Nation. It is a great privilege to call the Anniston Army Depot part of Alabama's Third District, and a tremendous honor to have had Colonel Walker commanding the post.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Colonel Walker on his retirement and distinguished service to the Anniston Army Depot, the United States Army, and our Nation.

YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT INTRODUCTION

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the reintroduction of my bill, the Youth, Peace, and Security Act of 2021.

Currently, youth make up the majority of the population in conflict-affected countries. However, youth remain under-represented in overseas conflict prevention, management, resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts. Youth and youth-led groups have shown their ability to play critical roles in deescalating conflict, preventing cyclical violence, and improving the effectiveness and sustainability of peace processes and agreements.

The Youth, Peace and Security Act of 2021 recognizes the importance of youth involvement and leadership in peace-building and conflict-prevention activities. The bill makes it the policy of the United States to promote the inclusive and meaningful participation of youth in peace building and conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as post-conflict relief and recovery efforts. The bill directs the State Department and USAID to develop a strategy to implement these goals. The strategy will prioritize providing training and technical assistance to youth; integrate youth consultation in aid programs; facilitate a safe and inclusive environment for youth; and, include youth in assessments of U.S. peace and security initiatives, among other priorities.

The bill would also require the President to appoint a coordinator to implement this strategy, currently held by USAID's Senior Agency Advisor on Youth. The coordinator will lead the implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security strategy; establish an advisory group made up of youth and civil society organizations to guide the implementation of the strategy; and, oversee the awarding of grants and provision of technical assistance to youth-led, peace-building organizations and individuals. These grants are part of the newly established Youth, Peace, and Security Fund, which seeks to support organizations dedicated to peace building, conflict prevention, conflict management, and conflict resolution.

I am thrilled to be joined in leading this bill with my colleagues Congressman JOHN CURTIS, Congressman DEAN PHILLIPS, and Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

REMEMBERING ALBERT ONIS WATTS, SR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Albert Onis Watts, Sr.,